

31.(currently amended) A device for enabling biometric authentication of an individual seeking access to a Web server from a Web client, the device comprising:

means for providing a comparison of selected records of biometric data of one or more individuals with live data received from the Web client, the live data respecting biometric characteristic of the individual and the live data being correlated to at least one parameter characteristic of the live data received by the Web client, the comparison being to determine whether the live data sufficiently matches the selected records as to authenticate the individual.

32. (original) The device of Claim 31, further comprising:

a database where the records of biometric data are stored.

33.(original) The device of Claim 31, wherein the device is linked to one of the Web server and the web client over a connection supporting a secure transport protocol.

34.(original) The device of Claim 31, further comprising:

one or more biometric databases of records of biometric data of one or more individuals;

and,

an authorization server linked to one or more biometric servers, each biometric server being linked to at least one biometric database.

35.(original) The device of Claim 34, wherein at least one biometric database is captive.

36.(currently amended) An authentication system for authenticating an individual seeking access to a Web server from a Web client, the system comprising:

a biometric device linked to the Web client to provide live data respecting biometric characteristics of the individual, the live data being generated based on [correlated to] at least one parameter characteristic of the live data received by the Web client;

an authentication center for providing a comparison of the live data with selected records of a plurality of records of biometric data of one or more individuals, the comparison being to determine whether the live data sufficiently matches the selected records so as to authenticate the individual.

37.(original) The system of Claim 36, wherein the web client and the Web server are linked to a Web cloud via Web connections and the Web connections support a secure transport protocol.

38.(original) The system of Claim 36, wherein the authentication center is linked to at least one of the Web client and the Web server via authentication center connections, the authentication center connections supporting a secure transport protocol.

39.(original) The system of Claim 36, wherein the authentication center comprises an authorization server linked to one or more biometric servers, each of the biometric servers being linked to one or more biometric databases.

40.(original) The system of Claim 39, wherein at least one of the biometric databases is captive.

41.(original) The system of Claim 39, wherein at least one of the biometric databases is independent.

42.(original) The system of Claim 38, wherein at least one of the biometric servers is independent.

43.(original) The system of Claim 36, wherein the Web client provides for the individual to have a claimed identity and the authentication center supports (i) receiving said claimed identity, (ii) providing the selected records based on said claimed identity and (iii) comparing the live data with the so-provided selected records.